

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date

February 11, 2013  
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald  
David Flynn  
Eric Gebhart, Chair  
Taylor Gregg  
Ric Nelson

Staff:

Richard Sanders, Interim Executive Director  
Teresa Holt  
Patrick Reinhart  
Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by: Jeannette Rice  
Peninsula Reporting

**Call to Order – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION**

Eric Gebhart read the Council's mission statement: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

**INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GOOD NEWS**

Taylor Gregg announced that her grandfather will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday soon.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Ric Nelson requested that the agenda be amended to add the Disability Policy Summit under Old Business. Kathy Fitzgerald **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED**.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING**

Committee members had not yet received the previous meeting minutes, so approval was postponed until the next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Patrick Reinhart noted that the Juneau Empire contacted him, and he gave them a statement about House Bill 88 and Senate Bill 39.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Executive Director Approval**

Eric Gebhart stated that he was in touch with Tara today and they are trying to get the approval moved along, but in the meantime Teresa should begin assuming her new role as executive director, although Rich still holds the official title.

## **January Full Council Meeting Debrief**

Eric Gebhart remarked that he received the comments that Teresa sent out, which were from other people. Committee members talked about the need for all Council members to use people first language when they speak in public or to legislators. Christie Reinhardt offered to send people a training page that she created with a quiz at the end to help them understand what people first language means, and the committee discussed making this part of orientation for new Council members.

Teresa Holt mentioned that another suggestion was to have a leader and a scribe in each meeting with a legislator and give them a sheet with the questions on it to help keep people organized.

Eric Gebhart added that they would like to start getting phone numbers for the people who call in to give public testimony so that Council members or staff could follow up with them as appropriate.

David Flynn suggested that people be given their meeting schedules right away when they arrive in Juneau, so there's time to make any changes if they need to. Teresa suggested that they might rearrange the whole Governor's Council meeting schedule to place all the meetings with legislators on the last day or day and a half. That would save the Council a day of conference room rental and would make more sense for the CART provider. It would also give Council members more time to prepare to meet with the legislators. Eric Gebhart encouraged committee members to e-mail any other suggestions or comments they have about the January meeting in Juneau.

## **Trust Advocacy Summit**

Eric Gebhart, Kathy Fitzgerald, Ric Nelson, and Teresa Holt attended the Trust Advocacy Summit. Eric reported that their number one priority that they pushed was the Complex Behavior Collaborative. Teresa Holt added that the amended budget should be released on Friday February 15<sup>th</sup>, and if CBC funding isn't in there, they will have to work to get it into the legislative budget.

## **Disability Policy Summit**

Ric Nelson announced that the Disability Policy Summit will be in Washington, D.C. April 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Fitzgerald explained that it is a gathering of national organizations to review national bills, policy, and budget issues that affect people with disabilities. Taylor Gregg **MOVED** to approve sending Ric, Kathy, Teresa, and Patrick to the Disability Policy Summit on behalf of the Governor's Council. The motion **PASSED**.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Legislative Update**

Teresa Holt reported that House Bill 88, the respectful language bill, has passed the House with a unanimous vote. Senate Bill 39, its companion bill, is having its first hearing today at 1:30 in HSS.

Teresa Holt reported that the SESA bill in the Senate, SB 17, is moving along, but in the House there are two bills, 85 and 87, introduced by Kawasaki and Higgins respectively, so they have to work out which bill will be moved forward. Teresa noted that Tammie Wilson has been raising questions about SESA in the House Finance Education Subcommittee, even though Teresa had a talk with her in January and answered a lot of those questions. The committee decided to follow up more intensively at Key Campaign, and Teresa noted that Tammie Wilson said she would invite Patrick then.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chair's Report**

Eric Gebhart noted that he had been contacted by Representative Peggy Wilson's office about a child psychiatrist who works in Alaska, Washington, and Wyoming and might be interested in getting involved in the Governor's Council somehow. Eric remarked that he wasn't sure how to direct the man's interest, so he would forward the materials to committee members so they could read what he sent and discuss how to respond.

Eric also stated that Sheryl Cobb had brought his attention to the fact that the Council's legislative liaison seat is vacant. Staff members will follow up by verifying the vacancy with Boards and Commissions and requesting that a new legislator be appointed.

## **Committee Reports**

### ***Legislative Committee***

David Flynn reported that the Legislative Committee meets the last Tuesday of this month from 1 to 2:30, and they would welcome suggestions for what they could do between now and the May meeting. David remarked that he was able to fill out his son's DD waiver reapplication form online for the first time recently, which indicates progress in simplifying paperwork, and it looks like some of the Council's other advocacy efforts are paying off in Juneau.

### ***DD Committee***

Kathy Fitzgerald reported that the DD Committee received an update on the wait list from Maureen Harwood, and it is down to 635 people. Kathy reported that Carrie was going to send out a short survey to DD providers asking them how many and what kinds of audits they go through every year, in hope of reducing time and money spent on excessive audits. Ric Nelson and Kathy Fitzgerald also reported that the DD Committee discussed shared care and IAT billing.

### ***Education Committee***

Taylor Gregg reported that she presented the Inclusive Practice Award at ASSEC to Earl Jeffrey, a regular education teacher from Hydaburg. Christie Reinhardt added that Mr. Jeffrey teaches history, shop, scuba diving, outdoor education, PE, and has been the principal, counselor, and senior seminar leader at his school.

### ***Early Intervention Committee***

Teresa Holt reported that 45 pages of new Early Intervention regulations should be released on Friday.

### ***Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee***

Teresa Holt reported that the Rural Services Ad Hoc Committee would be meeting the following day to go over the results of the telepractice survey.

### ***Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee***

Ric Nelson stated that they are currently finishing up the letter.

### ***Ad Hoc Committee on Autism***

Teresa Holt stated that the committee is setting up a meeting hopefully in the next month to make suggestions to the task force.

### **Interim Executive Director's Report**

Rich Sanders reported that the Council has people going to Key Campaign on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and to Full Lives in April. Rich will be doing a presentation to the Trustees of the Mental Health Trust on February 28<sup>th</sup> about coordinated disability employment services for Alaska, and he'll also be going to the DEI national conference next month to do a presentation on building state-level partnerships. Rich also noted that the Council's program performance review is due on March 15<sup>th</sup>, so staff will be working on that.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 1:30.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.